

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with D. Brownstone (46581) on 26 March 2008, which record of interview is incorporated herein.

The application has been amended as follows:

Canceled claim 18-19.

Claim 15, line 13, after 'factor', added --that is different than the first weighting factor--.

Claims 9 and 15, line 9 each, after 'second casino property', added --where second casino property is not the first casino property--.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: As remarked during interview, claim 18 is not enabled regarding 'only' at a second casino in that redeeming a complimentary offer at a second casino property is disclosed, but not 'only' at the second property; while, the 'first' and 'second' weighting factors did not preclude the factors being uniform as taught by GSI; therefore, examiner suggested adding 'that is different than the first weighting factor' after second weighting factor in claim 15, and cancelling claims 18-19. Also, first and second casino properties are different properties thereby requiring a location distinction and precluding first and second being same property at a different time. Exr noted that claims 9-14 were deemed allowable for the 'responsive to identifying the customer at the second casino property

automatically retrieving customer account data maintained in the first account from the first casino property' in so far as the the method requires retrieval from another property responsive to player identification; while, River City riverboats having GSI system also responsive to identifying the customer at a second casino property automatically retrieves customer account data since the customer account data was uploaded before leaving dockside facility there is no necessity for retrieval from another property. As stated in remarks on page 6 rec'd with RCE either a connection is in place or a connection is not in place such that while docked there is a connection but when on the river there is no connection and the database on the riverboat contains the customer data so there is no need to retrieve the customer data from another casino property database. Counsel agreed that the scope of claims regarding first and second labels of first and second casino property is a location distinction rather than a temporal distinction. Other art already of record maintained as relevant includes Wilkinson(5129652) for tracking player activity at multiple casinos via computer record or card; French (5735742) for tracking player activity including via use of player card and smart chips with possible use of chips at multiple casinos. Raven (5429361) and Sarbin (5179517) each teach player tracking cards used in casino system to track player wagering activity.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. A. Sager whose telephone number is 571-272-4454. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F, 0700-1730 hours.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on 571-272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. A. Sager/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3714